

MN HORSE COUNCIL MAY 11, TH 2010

MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL BOARD MINUTES May 11th, 2010

Meeting Location: Nutrena Conference Room – Leatherdale Center U of MN St Paul

Board Members

Present: Darrell Mead, Missie Schwartz, Mark Ward, Jan Schatzlein, Tim Bonham, Tom Tweeten, Tracy Turner, Dawn Moore, Glen Eaton, Christie Ward, Lynn Wasson, Carol Dobbelaire, Marian Robinson, Trina Joyce, Judy Jensen, Sue McDonough

Absent: Teresa Hanson

Members/Visitors: Tim Wampfler

- I. Meeting called to order: 6:32 p.m. by Mark Ward
- II. Introduction of Board Members/Visitors
Mark Ward introduced the aforementioned guest.
- III. Call for Additions/Changes to Agenda
 1. Trina Joyce requested the addition of a brief report on thank you notes received.
- IV. Treasurer's Report for May was distributed by Tim Bonham. Total assets: \$716,874.11 with total liabilities of \$363,803.71.
- V. Approval of Minutes – Tim Bonham moved to accept the April minutes as presented. Christie Ward seconded, motion passed.
- VI. Secretary's Report –Dawn Moore- no report.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. MHC Director's Stipend- Dawn Moore opened the discussion regarding implementing a stipend or travel expenses to directors for attending monthly meetings. Discussion followed. Vote followed on the motion made by Sue McDonough in the April meeting which stated "Travel expenses be paid to directors for attending a monthly meeting." Voting followed in which the motion was defeated.
- B. State Fair premium payment to be made in 2010- Mark Ward reported the Tri-State Horsemen's Association has sent a thank you for their \$25,000 matching grant. MHC has turned the funds over to the MN State Fair.

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- C. Funding of Attorney's Retainer- Mark Ward reported he will call together the executive board members to determine how to add this line item to the budget without going over budget. Mark Ward will report on their findings in June.
- D. Current Status of Our Tax Bill- Mark Ward reported: Our bill 2685 and HF 3107, have been given bipartisan support from both the senate and the house and is now included in the omnibus tax policy bill. That bill will be either signed or vetoed by the governor. It is likely that he will sign this bill, since it is not the omnibus tax bill that includes any controversial taxation or spending bills. Furthermore, our bill is immune to a line item veto. So if the governor signs the current omnibus tax policy bill, then our horse property tax bill will become law. If he vetoes the policy bill, Then we will have to try again in a future session of the legislature. (And if that happens only some of the work we have done will need to be repeated, seeing that the bill gets re-authored and passed through committees. It wouldn't need to be rewritten, because there have been no arguments against it and it is unlikely there will be any.)

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. EXPO –Glen Eaton reported the following: The bottom line for the 2010 Expo is not available at this time but we feel we had a great and educational Expo. The horse barn was full of horses and the vendor booths were all full, with a waiting list. The clinicians demonstrations and seminars were well attended. Promotion was great with ads in newspapers, journals, and ads on TV and radio. Ads in the program were up from 2009 and attendance figures should be in shortly. Even with the rain, attendance was good.

This will be a busy summer for the Expo staff getting ready for 2011 with ongoing changes at the Fairgrounds. Contracts for booth and stall space will go out August 28th. The Expo will have a vendor booth at the Wisconsin Farm Technology Days in River Falls, Wisconsin July 20-22 and then the state fair.

Proposed Expo board members (current council president, Missie Schwartz, Glen Eaton, Linda Dahl, Brenda Miller, Del Bauernfeind, Laura Lyseng, Darrell Mead, Jennifer Buskey, Tracy Turner and Jan Schatzlein) were voted upon and approved en masse by the MHC directors. Darrell Mead proposed to allow Brenda Miller retain her position as Expo Treasurer. Tom Tweeten seconded, motion passed. The MHC board of directors voted in approval of Glen Eaton retaining the position as Expo President. Glen Eaton shared a thank you received from an inner city Minneapolis school for a wonderful Expo experience. Carol Dobbelaire asked Glen Eaton about security issues experienced at Expo 2010 and what changes may be made for 2011. Glen Eaton stated that they provide the best security possible and the high standard will continue. Glen Eaton reported the 2011 Expo will be April 29-May 1st. This is a change as the regular dates fell on Easter. The board expressed their gratitude for a wonderful Expo and a fantastic hospitality room.

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B. Direct Funding –Christie Ward reported the following:

Proposals to be considered today:

1. Whips and Wheels Carriage & Driving Society

Pat Hartell

This organization is requesting \$500 to support the second annual Prairie Home Carriage Festival to be held May 1-2, 2010 at the Dakota County Fairgrounds in Farmington, MN. Funds awarded will be used to pay expenses for the driving instructor and carriage expert, Steve Wood, who will be giving several short clinics during the event.

2. Polk County 4-H Council

Jill Carlson – Officer

This organization is requesting \$500 to support a 3-day horsemanship clinic taught by Lita Hottel. The clinic will be held June 16 – 18, 2010 at the Red River Valley Winter Shows facility in Crookston, MN. The clinic will be open to the general public as well as 4-H members, and people of all ages are eligible to participate. Funds awarded will be used to cover Lita Hottel's instructor fees.

Direct Funding proposals approved for 2010 to date:

Victory Riders, Inc: \$500

Minnesota Mounted Shooters Association: \$500

Total Direct Funding approved for 2010: \$1000 to date

C. Temporary Emergency Equine Feed Assistance- Carol Dobbelaire reported there was literature (brochure and application) regarding the committee. There was good contact made with the public throughout the Expo. No applications have been received to date. The committee is determined to fund the project through external sources. Carol Dobbelaire is exploring the possibility of transforming this committee into a hay bank.

D. Grants-review of grants in question- Mark Ward reported on the round bale hay feeder grant as the question has been raised regarding the study taking place in Wisconsin and not within the borders of Minnesota. Mark Ward reported the when the grant was issued there were several sites being considered and the River Falls, WI site was one of them. As the grant was awarded to an entity that resides in MN and the research only would be carried out in Wisconsin, the board felt it was within the MHC guidelines. Tim Bonham reported the Animal Humane Society will be using the matching grant to purchase portable paddocks.

E. Trina Joyce shared several thank you notes that she has received from grant, direct funding and scholarship recipients.

F. SHCAC- Glen Eaton reported the following: A two hour conference call took place on May 5th to discuss Committees and topics to take place during the AHC meetings in Washington May 20 through the 23rd. I will be attending from the Expo and Tracy representing the Council in separate meetings. All seems to be going well with the new floor plan.

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VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commercial Vehicle Regulations applied to horse transportation- Mark Ward reported that there are reports coming in of truck/trailer combinations being pulled over and detained by MN State Troopers attempting to determine if they are commercial haulers. Mark Ward advised there is now a link to the MN DOT rules available on the website that will aid members in determining if this issue affects them.

B. MHC Grant Update-Mark Ward The grant for bale feeder research is going to the University of Minnesota Sponsored Projects Administration. The co-investigators are Krishona Martinson and Julie Wilson. At the time the grant was issued, the researchers had a few sites in mind, and the River Falls site was a primary one.

The University of Wisconsin at River Falls was found to be the best place to pursue the research because they had 30 horses available during the summer as well as a good system for weighing the horses on-site. The River Falls Horse department will receive free hay in return for the use of their 30 horses in the research project, which will be carried out July 8th – Aug 17th.

X. Mark Ward adjourned the meeting at 7:58PM.

NEXT MEETING
June 8th, 2010
6:30 p.m.
University of MN
Leatherdale Equine Center